

Mandating a "broadcast flag" will only serve to impede a transition to Digital Television because consumers simply refuse to buy rights management crippled products. The Audio Home Recording Act mandated that all Digital Audio Tape devices must enforce rights management. Consumers simply didn't buy them. The technology is virtually nonexistent today. Claims that companies will withhold content are nothing but empty blackmail threats. Analog signals are already subject to the same "danger" of unlimited distribution of perfect copies after a simple digital conversion. The broadcast flag is inherently flawed technologically, it can never achieve the goal of preventing copyright infringement. It is not in the public interest. It will inconvenience the public and interfere with legitimate activity. It will interfere with innovation. The broadcast flag also becomes entirely nonsensical when you consider that television signals will be increasingly be received on computers and processed in software.

The FCC is entrusted with managing the public airwaves in the public interest. The recommendations of the Broadcast Protection Discussion Group simply do not reflect the public interest.